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Office Action date: October 1, 2004

Claim 1 (Original) A method for appending information to a graphical image file comprising the steps of:

creating a graphical image, said image containing at least one object;

creating a graphical image file of said created graphical image;

defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area;

inserting the information about the defined hotspot area into a data record; and

generating an appendix to the graphical image file using the information about the hotspot area, the appendix being the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area.

Claim 2 (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising the step of appending the generated appendix to the graphical image file.

Claim 3 (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the step of defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area further comprises using an image creation tool.

Claim 4 (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the step of defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area further comprises using an external tool.

Claim 5 (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the graphical image file has a JPEG file format.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended) <u>A method for appending information to a graphical image file comprising the steps of:</u>

<u>creating a graphical image, said image containing at least one object;</u>

<u>creating a graphical image file of said created graphical image;</u>

<u>defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area;</u>

<u>inserting the information about the defined hotspot area into a data record; and</u>

<u>generating an appendix to the graphical image, by reading the length of the graphical file, appending the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area to the graphical image file and thereby creating a new graphical image file, and appending the length of the new graphical image file to the end of the new file, the generated appendix being the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area.</u>

~~The method as described in claim 1 wherein said appendix generation step further comprises the steps of:~~

~~reading the length of the graphical image file;~~

~~appending the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area to the graphical image file and thereby creating a new graphical image file;~~

~~appending the length of the new graphical image file to the end of said new file; and storing the new graphical image file.~~

Claim 7 (Original) The method as described in claim 6 wherein the length of the new graphical image file is stored in a field at the end of the graphical image file.

Claim 8 (Original) The method as described in claim 6 further comprising after said storing step, the step of decoding the data in the appendix to the graphical image file.

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Claim 9 (Original) The method as described in claim 8 wherein said decoding step further comprises the steps of:

reading the length of the new graphical image file including the appendix portion of the file;

determining whether this graphical image file has an appendix;

determining the length of the original graphical image file when there is an appendix;

determining the starting location of the appended information; and

reading all information contained in the appended portion of the graphical image file.

Claim 10 (Original) The method as described in claim 9 wherein said length determination step comprises subtracting n number of bytes from the length of the new graphical image file.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 9 wherein said start location determination step comprises using the length of the new graphical image file obtained in claim 10 to find a start of information field in the graphical image file.

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Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for appending information to a graphical image file comprising:

instructions for creating a graphical image, said image containing at least one object;

instructions for creating a graphical image file of said created graphical image;

instructions for defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area;

instructions for inserting the information about the defined hotspot area into a data record; and

instructions for generating an appendix to the graphical image file using the information about the hotspot area, comprising instructions for reading the length of the graphical image file, instructions for appending the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area to the graphical image file and thereby creating a new graphical image file, instructions for appending the length of the new graphical image file to the end of said new file and instructions for storing the new graphical image file, the appendix being the data record containing the information about the defined hotspot area.

Claim 13 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising instructions for appending the generated appendix to the graphical image file.

Claim 14 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein the instructions for defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area further comprises instructions for using an image creation tool.

Claim 15 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein the instructions for defining an area on the created image as a hotspot area further comprises instructions for using an external tool.

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Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 12 16 wherein said storing instructions further comprise instructions for storing the length of the new graphical image file at the end of the graphical image file.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 12 16 further comprising after said storing instructions, instructions for decoding the data in the appendix to the graphical image file.

Claim 19 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 18 wherein said decoding instructions further comprise:

instructions for reading the length of the new graphical image file including the appendix portion of the file;

instructions for determining whether this graphical image file has an appendix; instructions for determining the length of the original graphical image file when there is an appendix;

instructions for determining the starting location of the appended information; and

instructions for reading all information contained in the appended portion of the graphical image file.

Claim 20 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 19 wherein said length determination instructions further comprise instructions for subtracting n number of bytes from the length of the new graphical image file.

Claim 21 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 20 wherein said start location determination instructions further comprise instructions for using the length to find a start of information field in the graphical image file.

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Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Canceled)

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Canceled)

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Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Canceled)

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